Railway Gates between Rangiya and Guwahati

6289. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that two Railway gates between Rangiya and Guwahati in Assam create bottleneck on road transport that leads to great inconvenience to road users; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to build over-bridges at these Railway gates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Road Over Bridges at both the places have been approved in Railway Budget 1996-97. Required formalities are being fulfilled with State Govt.

Wagon Induction Programme

6290. SHRI NAMDEO DIWATHE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have initiated follow up action on its decision for wagon induction programme, synchronisation of plan with the ministries of coal, steel and industries:

(b) if so, the details of action plan formulated for 1997-98 for implementation of the decision; and

(c) the details regarding present status of implementation of the decision and progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) The target for freight traffic planned to be lifted in a year is decided in consultation with the various User Ministries e.g. Coal, Steel, Industries, Petroleum etc. The number of wagons proposed to be inducted in the system in a year depends upon the likely transport output, wagon utilisation, etc.

(b) and (c) It has been planned to induct 26,000 wagons (in four wheeler units) in 1997-98. Action has already been initiated in this regard.

Criteria for Laying New Railway Lines

6291. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted and followed for laying new railway lines in the country;

(b) whether remunerative aspect is taken as a criteria for laying new railway lines;

(c) if so, the number of such new lines have become remunerative during each of the last three years, Zone/State-wise; and

(d) the steps contemplating by the Government in respect of non remunerative railway lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) The criteria for construction of new lines being followed on the railways is based on the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee, dated May, 1990, which had laid down the following criteria for taking up construction of new lines:

1. Project oriented lines to serve new industries for tapping mineral and other resources.
2. Missing links for complete alternative routes to relieve congestion on existing saturated routes.
3. Lines required for strategic reasons; and
4. Lines for establishment of new growth centers or giving access to remote areas.

Further, remunerative aspect is also taken into consideration while laying new railway lines.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is one of the criteria.

(c) Only one project i.e. Haridaspur-Paradip on South Eastern Railway in Orissa.

(d) Some non-remunerative railway lines are also taken up in the interest of the development of backward areas.

Shortage of Coaches

6292. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of coaches in all the trains running on Quilon-Madras meter-gauge line in Madurai Division;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have provided more coaches for shuttle and superfast trains on Quilon-Madras metergauge line; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. All the trains are running as per their normal scheduled composition.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, for clearance of extra rush, additional coaches are attached as and when required.

Postal Facilities in Village Panchayat, Bihar

6293. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *ALIAS* PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of village Panchayats in Bihar where post offices facilities are available, district-wise;